



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

House of Representatives

JUSTICE FOR ALUSIA AND LEDIA!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a private bill, H.R. 731, on behalf of two extraordinary young women, Alusia and Ledia Zace.

Alusia and Ledia were brought here from Albania by their parents in 1996 when they were 8 and 9 years old. Their fathers' legal bid for political asylum was denied in 2004 due to the incompetence of their lawyer, who was deported in 2007. This injustice forced the girls and their mother to care for themselves. With no legal representation, the girls face deportation.

The sisters have excelled academically in the U.S. and are attending a university in San Diego. They can neither read nor write in their native language and would most certainly be condemned to a life without opportunity should they be forced to return to Albania. The U.S. is their home and they should be given an opportunity to finish college and contribute to the only community they have known.